



# Indiana's State House

## Design And Restorations

### History

The Indiana Territory was carved from the Northwest Territory in 1800. Vincennes was the first seat of government.

As westward-bound settlers and supplies started to arrive in the territory via the Ohio River, territorial government was moved to Corydon, a short distance away.

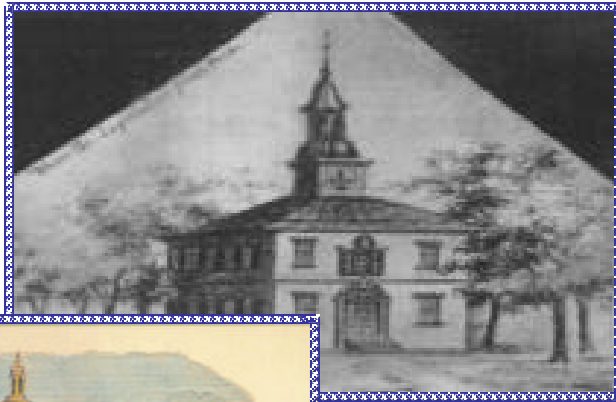
Indiana became a state on December 11, 1816; Corydon remained the seat of government. The original State House, a 40-foot-square building, was made of Indiana limestone.

As more roads were built and settlement moved northward, a centrally located seat of government was needed. In January 1821 a site was selected

*1) Territorial Capitol at Vincennes*

*2) First State House in Corydon*

*3) Indianapolis circa 1854, Capitol dome in view*



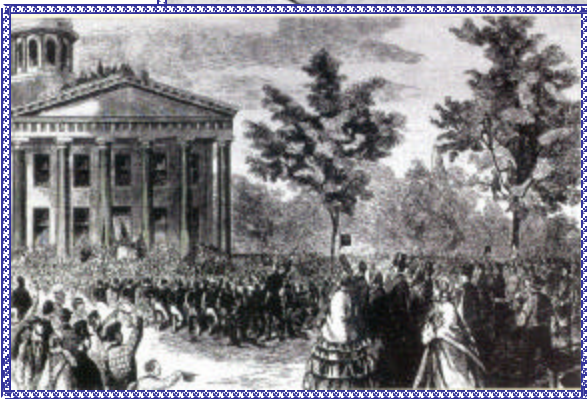
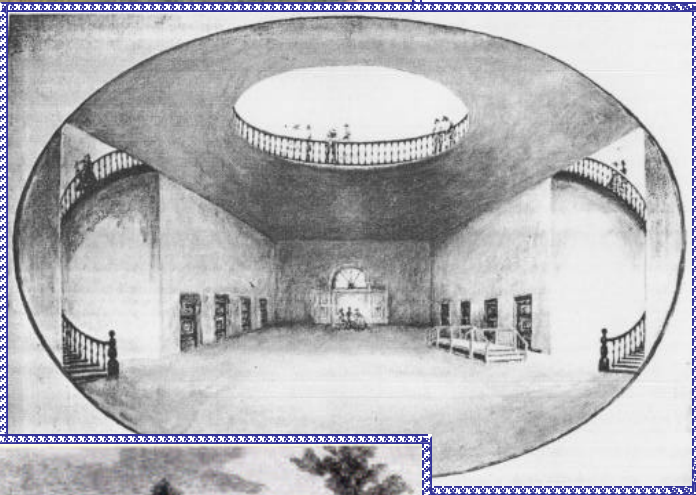
and the city of Indianapolis was founded.

State records and the state treasury physically moved to Indianapolis in October 1824. State government was officially transferred to Indianapolis on January 10, 1825, when the legislature convened for its regular session.

There was no formal building in which to conduct State business. State offices were scattered across the new city in a host of houses and storefronts. Sessions of the General Assembly were held at the Marion County Courthouse.

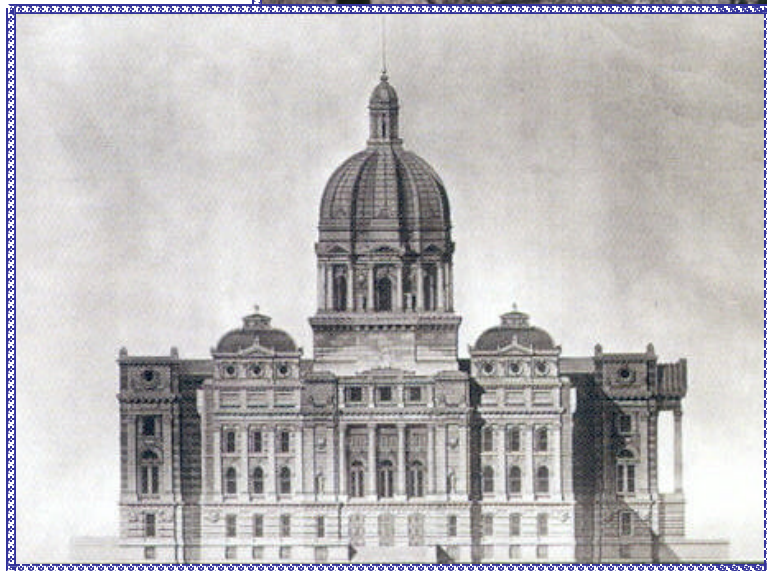
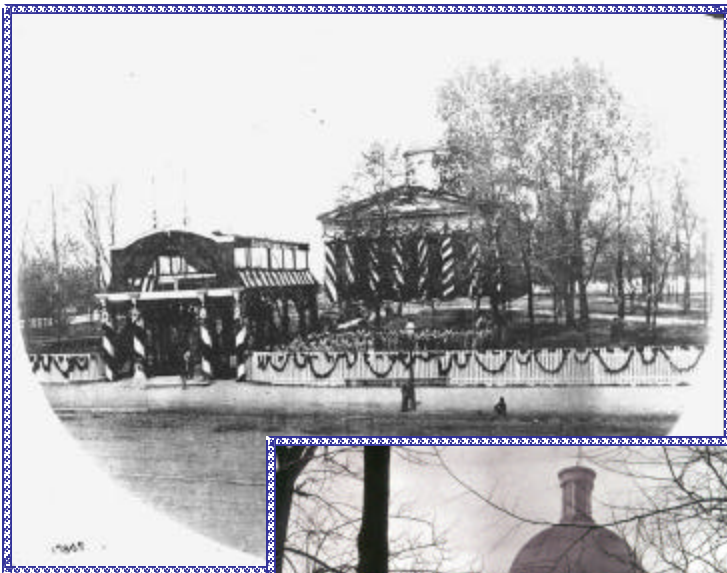
A new State House was authorized in 1832. The building was completed in 1835 at a cost of \$60,000. The design was Grecian Doric and an Italian Renaissance dome graced the building. It stood on the south end of the present State House grounds, facing Washington Street.

In 1867, the ceiling of the House Chamber collapsed. The damage was repaired, but unsafe conditions led to the 1873 creation of a New State House Committee to study the issue. In 1877, a Board of State House Commissioners was created to complete construction of a new building



- 1) Marion County Courthouse, where first sessions of General Assembly were held
- 2) First State House in Indianapolis
- 3) View from the Rotunda in the first Indianapolis State House
- 4) 11th Indiana Regiment in front of State House





at a cost not to exceed  
\$2,000,000.00.

The Board held a contest to select the architect. Edwin May submitted a plan called *Lucidus Ordo* - Latin for "a clear arrangement." The Board selected this plan from among two dozen proposals submitted.

1) *President Lincoln lies in state at the State House*

2) *Demolition of the State House, 1877*

3) *Building façade, Washington Street, architectural drawing by Edwin May*

***For more information, or to schedule a State House tour, contact:***

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